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Dear Parents/Carers

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION FOR 2016 SESSION

As many of you will know, each year a maximum intake cap is set for schools. This is to ensure school capacity is not exceeded now or in the future and that we are compliant with 2014 Scottish Government Guidelines on working capacity and the maintenance of teaching spaces to enable us to deliver a full and effective curriculum.

This year our school intake has been capped at 63 taking our roll for August 2016 to 422.

Throughout this month staff will be working together to organise the children into classes for August. It is likely we will have 3 P1 classes and at least 2 composite classes at other stages in the school. Where there is no need to re-arrange a year group into different classes we will not do so.

We will write to you before the end of May to advise you of your child's class and teacher for the new session.

NEW P1 INTAKE INDUCTION DAYS

Now that decisions have been made on placing requests we are able to invite our new P1 pupils into school for their first induction visits where they will meet their teacher and new classmates. The children will be invited in on one of three dates in May in their new class groups. Parents will have the opportunity to order uniform with our supplier BARU on these days. The visits are planned for the afternoons of 17th, 18th and 19th May at 1.30pm. This allows us to meet the children one class at a time and reduces the queue for sizing uniform.

The families of all children who have a P1 place with us will receive a letter in the post advising of the date of their visit.

SPRING FAIR

Our Fundraising Committee are organising this year's Spring Fair which will take place on Saturday 7th May from 10am until 1pm. Lots of exciting stalls and events are planned for the day including football, slides, hot food and lots more. If you feel you can offer any help on the day call our school office who will pass on your details to the committee. A flyer with more detailed information on the day will be sent home with children after the Spring break and further details will be posted on our website.



PRIMARY 7 END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

Primary 7 will be invited to attend induction days at their chosen High School this term.

Children attending Bannerman High in August will shortly receive a letter from the school inviting them to attend for 3 days on 7th, 8th and 9th of June. Parents of children attending are also invited to attend an information evening on Monday 6th June at 6.30pm in the school.

Diary Dates

25th - 29th April Health Week

27th April - School nurse visiting
P1 pupils Height & Weight check

2nd May - School Holiday

3rd- 9th May - Travelling Books

4th May - P1 Huckleberry Party

5th May - P2s Insect Lore
Butterflies arrive today

5th May - Election
School closed to all pupils

6th May - Winning House Treat
'Arran House' - Wonderworld

9th May - Stepford - Girls
Football 3pm - 4pm

10th May Zoolab visiting P2s

12th May P1a trip to GMRC 'Fairy Tales.

17th May - P2/1 trip to GMRC
'Fairy Tales'

17th May / 18th May / 19th May
New Entrants Induction
Afternoons

18th May - Hoots Owls visiting
P2s

19th May - P1b trip to GMRC
'Fairy Tales'

20th May - Garrowhill Primary
Official Opening Ceremony

23rd May - Football at Stepford
3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

25th May - Bee Keeper visiting
P2s

26th May P7s FARE legacy
games at Emirates Arena

Children attending an alternative High School will receive notification directly from the school with dates of induction days for their establishment.

Our P7 leavers Service will take place in Mure Memorial Church on Tuesday 21st June at 1.30pm. Please return the RSVP slip attached to this letter to let us know if you wish tickets. A maximum of two tickets per child will be allocated initially as we must comply with the church guidelines on capacity. Parents/carers attending church on this day are invited to join us in the school hall at 3pm for a buffet with the children.

The P7 Disco will take place 7-9pm on the evening of Tuesday 21st in our assembly hall. The children have decided that the beach party theme is best for them so let's hope the sun shines warmly for them!!

Please look out for separate letters throughout May/June with further details or reminders of these events.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Baillie Liz Cameron will officially open our new school in a ceremony which will take place on Friday 20th May in our assembly hall. All children will be present and invited guests include representatives of the community, church and parents. This is an important day in the school's history and we ask that all children wear their shirt and tie uniform for the occasion. There will be no PE timetable on 20th May.

SCHOOL OUTING

To celebrate the official opening and the end of our first full school session in the building, we are planning a whole school outing to Kelburn Country Park on Wednesday 22nd June. We are hopeful that every child and all staff including our catering and cleaning team will be able to attend this one off event. The cost of this for each child will be £10 and a separate letter will be issued later this week to each child asking you to indicate your consent for your child to attend. We appreciate this is an unexpected expense and will put arrangements in place for families to pay in small installments if this helps. If you have any concerns about the cost please let us know.

Any parents able to offer help by accompanying us on the day should let the school office know.

TRAVEL PLAN & PARKING



Incredibly we still have parents who park across residents' driveways when dropping off or collecting children from school. On each occasion that this happens a member of the school's management team has to take time to deal with the resident's complaint and apologise on behalf of our parent forum. There is ample parking in the streets surrounding our school and our drop off point in school works very well in the morning with staff there to support children's safe entry to school from 8.50am each day.

Blocking another person's access or exit from their home is unreasonable and unacceptable behaviour. Please support your child and the school by parking appropriately.

COLLECTING/DROPPING OFF AT SCHOOL

If when dropping off at school you prefer to wait around the perimeter fence to observe your child in the playground, please make sure the pavement is not blocked for other children arriving. A busy footpath can be intimidating to some children even when they are with an adult. Too many adults on one spot on the pavement increases the risk to children as they may have to walk too close to the kerb to pass. Please be observant and leave plenty of space for children to walk to school and access our gates safely.

When collecting from school it is important that all pre-school children are supervised and remain with an adult at all times. The grass embankment around the playground has a steep slope towards the fence. Young children cannot control their momentum if they start down this hill and they are then at risk of colliding with the fence or being jagged by nettles at the bottom of the slope. We would also ask all adults to stay back from the building and the windows when waiting for children and keep the exit pathways clear.

HEALTH WEEK

This week is health week in school where we focus learning around all aspects of health. Mrs Vickers is coordinating the week's events and include children having taster sessions in judo and massage as well as input from other health professional to support healthy choices with food and lifestyle. During the week all classes in the school will complete their Sexual Health & Relationship lessons as part of the progressive programme of work children began in their P1 year. Children should keep a pair of shorts and a t-shirt in their bags each day this week as they may be needed for some of the activities.

CHILD PROTECTION: ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Please phone the dedicated absence team based at 220 High Street on 287 0039 from 8 am on the first day of any absence and every subsequent day. It is important that families inform the absence line before 9am if a child cannot attend school. This prevents school staff raising a concern because a child has not arrived as expected in school at 9am.



A letter explaining the reason for absence should be provided to the school on your child's return from absence.

MAY/JUNE ELECTIONS AND CLOSURES

Please remember that our school is used as a polling place on 5th May. This is an in-service day for staff and children should not attend.

On June 23rd the school will also be used as a polling place for the European Elections. Following consultation with the Constituency Manager, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for children to attend school on this day. Staff will use this time for further in-service training in the building.

All parents are advised to make alternative child care arrangements for Thursday 23rd June.

BOOK FAIR

From Tuesday 3rd May - Monday 9th May the school will host a book fair from Travelling Books. Children will have the chance to view books and take a brochure home with guidance on how to order should you wish to buy one. This is a 100% commission meaning the school will receive books for our library to the value of any purchases.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SUPPORT

The Garrowhill Fundraising Committee meet regularly to plan and coordinate events aimed at not only raising funds to support learning experiences but also to involve children in their community. The children and staff would like to express their thanks to the contribution the committee makes to improving learning experiences in the school. This term alone classes will benefit from the Living Eggs project, Insect Lore, Zoolab and Hoots Owls. All have costs associated with them that our core budget cannot always cover and the benefit to the children's learning is tremendous. The committee also support the P7 leaving arrangements both financially and with the offer of organisational help and have contributed to our Christmas and Easter celebrations. Many thanks to everyone who gives their time to help with the work of the committee and helps us make learning a little more exciting.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Staff are currently completing the annual written report to parents/carers and we will issue these to families at the end of May along with details of your child's class and teacher for the new session.

WINNING HOUSE TREAT

Congratulations to the pupils in Arran House. We have organised an outing to Wonderworld on Friday 6th May, 2016. Permission slips will issued shortly.

ANNUAL SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who completed one of our surveys earlier in the month. A full analysis of the responses from parents, pupils and staff is attached to this letter.

CORDIA

The charge for the breakfast club is £2 per day. There is a discounted rate of £1 for second and subsequent children. Breakfasts will continue to be free for those entitled to free school meals. Although there is universal free meal provision for P1-P3, this does not extend to breakfast clubs and children who do not meet free meals entitlement eligibility criteria must pay.

LUNCH ARREARS

If you receive a text from the office regarding breakfast/lunch arrears payment must be made to the School Office. Arrears cannot be paid by topping up your child's card.

HOLIDAY REMINDER

Monday 2nd May is the May Day bank holiday and school will be closed.

School is closed on Friday 29th and Monday 30th May for the bank holiday.

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE SUMMER ON FRIDAY 24TH JUNE AT 1.00 PM AND RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 15TH AUGUST.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Logue
Head Teacher.

May Newsletter 25/04/16

Your comments and suggestions do help us improve how we support your child and improve our school. Please use the space below if you have any comments and suggestions.

Please use this slip to offer help or provide feedback to the school.

Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Comment:

PRIMARY 7 LEAVERS SERVICE - MURE MEMORIAL CHURCH
TUESDAY 21ST JUNE @ 1.30 p.m.

CHILD'S NAME CLASS

A maximum of 2 tickets per child will be allocated. Tickets are for adults only. Please indicate how many tickets you require.

AMOUNT OF TICKETS REQUIRED (please return slip to school office ASAP)